

# MISSOURI MONTHLY VITAL STATISTICS

## *Provisional Statistics*

*From The*

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## ***Focus. . . 2001 Vital Statistics***

Missourians reached a record 76.4 years of life expectancy according to provisional 2001 vital statistics. This compares with 76.3 years in 2000 and 76.9 years nationally in 2000. Overall mortality decreased slightly in 2001 as there were 9.7 deaths per 1,000 population compared with 9.8 in 2000.

The largest decrease in mortality occurred for heart disease as 16,450 Missourians died from heart disease in 2001 or 5.4 percent less than the 17,382 in 2000. This decrease occurred throughout the state and about equally by race and gender. The largest decrease by age was among those aged 55-74 years (8.4 percent) followed by persons age 75 and over (5.1 percent).

Virtually no change in heart disease mortality occurred for persons under age 55.

The 2001 heart disease mortality drop represents an acceleration of a long-term trend. Since 1991 the heart disease death rate decreased by 15 percent and by 23 percent since 1980.

Reasons for the heart disease death decrease include the following:

- Improvements in medical care after heart attacks
- Reduction in repeat heart attacks
- Better prevention of heart disease development
- Increased use of a new class of cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins.

**Table 1**  
**Vital Statistics for Missouri: 1991, 2000 and Provisional 2001**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i>		
	<i>1991</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001 (Prov)</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001 (Prov)</i>
Births	78,468	76,329	75,250	15.2	13.6	13.4
Deaths	50,711	54,602	54,550	9.8	9.8	9.7
Natural increase	27,757	21,727	20,700	5.4	3.9	3.7
Marriages	46,115	43,665	42,100	8.9	7.8	7.5
Divorces	25,751	24,980	23,500	5.0	4.5	4.2
Infant deaths	798	547	550	10.2*	7.2*	7.3*
Abortions	17,171	12,292	12,230	218.8*	161.0*	162.6*
Population (1000s)	5,165	5,595	5,630			

\*Per 1,000 live births

(continued on next page)

In May of 2001, the National Cholesterol Education Program issued new guidelines regarding cholesterol control that may lead to greater numbers of persons using the statin drugs. Several recent studies have shown an association between the use of the drugs and reduction in heart disease deaths.

"While it is good news that death from heart disease has decreased, it is still a major threat to many in Missouri," said Bert Malone, director of the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. "Too many Missourians have lifestyles and habits that put them at risk for developing heart disease."

Malone said smoking, being overweight and not engaging in physical activity all are risk factors for heart disease. He said the good news is that people can reduce their risk of heart disease by not starting or quitting smoking; eating healthy foods; including five servings of vegetables and fruits each day; and engaging in regular physical activity such as walking, cycling, or participating in exercise classes.

Despite the decrease, heart disease remains the leading cause of death in Missouri, followed by cancer, stroke, chronic lung disease and accidents (unintentional injuries). Cancer and unintentional injury deaths all increased in 2001, while deaths due to stroke decreased.

Non-motor-vehicle unintentional injury deaths increased by 12 percent from 1,203 in 2000 to 1,346 in 2001. Nearly all of this increase was in falls, which increased by 35 percent from 361 to 488. This matches a previous peak in 1998.

The infant death rate increased slightly in 2001, from 7.2 to 7.3 per 1,000 live births. The Missouri rate remains above the national rate of 6.6 per 1,000 live births. Infant mortality in 2001 among African-Americans was about 2.9 times the white rate (16.6 vs. 5.8 per 1,000 live births). This compares with a black to white infant mortality ratio of 2.5 to 1 in 2000 (14.8 vs. 5.9).

**Table 2**  
**Leading Causes of Death with Rates: Missouri Residents 1991, 2000 and Provisional 2001**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 100,000 Population</i>		
	<i>1991</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001 (Prov)</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001 (Prov)</i>
<u>Leading Causes of Death</u>						
Heart	17,730	17,382	16,450	343.3	310.7	292.2
Cancer	11,826	12,127	12,290	229.0	216.7	218.3
Lung cancer	3,515	3,748	3,708	68.1	67.0	65.9
Stroke	3,461	3,853	3,764	67.0	68.9	66.9
Chronic lung disease	2,130	2,804	2,861	41.2	50.1	50.8
Unintentional injury	2,073	2,331	2,420	40.1	41.7	43.0
Motor vehicle	1,030	1,128	1,074	19.9	20.2	19.1
Other	1,043	1,203	1,346	20.2	21.5	23.9
Pneumonia & influenza	1,898	1,497	1,587	36.7	26.8	28.2
Diabetes	1,106	1,458	1,513	21.4	26.1	26.9
Alzheimer's disease	280	1,144	1,110	5.4	20.4	19.7
Nephritis & nephrosis	538	958	982	10.4	17.1	17.4
Suicide	719	697	735	13.9	12.5	13.1
Septicemia	425	616	614	8.2	11.0	10.9
Homicide	567	391	416	11.0	7.0	7.4
AIDS	346	169	149	6.7	3.0	2.6
Maternal Deaths	3	10	7	3.8**	13.1**	9.3**

\*\*Per 100,000 live births

Teen births decreased by 5.6 percent from 9,971 in 2000 to 9,408 in 2001. Early teen (less than age 18) births decreased by 12.1 percent. These are continuations of the 1990s trends as teen births have decreased by one-sixth since 1991 and early teen births have declined by 28.6 percent in that time period.

Other maternal and child health indicators show the following in 2001:

- The rate of inadequate prenatal care increased from 10.4 percent in 2000 to 10.8 percent in 2001, the first increase since 1990.
- The low-birth-weight (less than 5.5 pounds) rate remained the same the last two years, 7.6 percent.
- The rate of out-of-wedlock births reached another record high, 34.7 percent.
- Short (less than 18 months) spacing increased

among 2001 births from 10.8 percent in 2000 to 11.1 percent.

- The rates of Medicaid, WIC, and Food Stamp births all increased in 2001. These trends probably reflect the poor economy in 2001.
- Abortions decreased slightly in 2001 from 12,292 to 12,230.

Marriages and divorces both declined in 2001. Marriages decreased by 3.6 percent from 43,665 to 42,100 while divorces decreased by 5.9 percent from 24,980 to 23,500. Both represent long-term declines. Marriages are at their lowest level since 1966, while divorces haven't been lower since 1974 (the first year no-fault divorce became law). These trends are certainly related, as there are fewer couples marrying there are also fewer couples available to divorce.

**Table 3**  
**Trends in Maternal and Child Health Statistics: Missouri 1991, 2000 and Provisional 2001**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates</i>		
	<i>1991</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001 (Prov.)</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001 (Prov.)</i>
Infant Deaths	798	547	550	10.2	7.2	7.3
White	498	369	359	7.8	5.9	5.8
Black	290	169	183	21.3	14.8	16.6
Low Birth Weight	5,884	5,798	5,746	7.5	7.6	7.6
White	3,919	4,119	4,182	6.2	6.6	6.8
Black	1,874	1,517	1,396	13.8	13.3	12.6
Inadequate Prenatal Care	13,149	7,639	7,796	17.3	10.4	10.8
White	8,364	5,156	5,335	13.4	8.4	8.8
Black	4,580	2,179	2,138	36.5	21.0	21.8
Birth Spacing<18 mos.	6,480	4,657	4,769	14.3	10.8	11.1
Out-of Wedlock Births	23,673	26,407	26,142	30.2	34.6	34.7
Teen(10-19) Births	11,298	9,971	9,408	14.4	13.1	12.5
Early Teen (10-17) Births	4,105	3,333	2,929	5.2	4.4	3.9
Smoking During Pregnancy	18,903	13,955	13,740	24.1	18.3	18.3
Medicaid Births	27,582	30,029	30,454	36.2	40.8	42.1
WIC Births	27,524	29,205	29,230	36.1	39.7	40.5
Food Stamps Births	17,875	12,004	12,803	23.5	16.3	17.8
Live Births	78,468	76,329	75,250			

## Provisional Vital Statistics for December 2001

**LIVE BIRTHS** decreased in December as 6,177 Missouri babies were born compared with 6,320 one year earlier. Provisional calendar year 2001 births decreased by 1 percent to 75,529 from 76,320 in 2000.

**DEATHS** decreased in December as 3,670 Missourians died compared with 4,068 in December 2000. Cumulative deaths for the 12 months ending with December 2001 decreased slightly from 54,602 to 54,327.

The **NATURAL INCREASE** in December was 2,507 (6,177 births minus 3,670 deaths). The provisional 2001 natural increase of 21,202 was down 2.4 percent from 2000's count of 21,727.

**MARRIAGES** increased in December as 2,283 Missouri couples married compared with 2,052 one year earlier. Cumulative marriages went up slightly in 2001.

**DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE** decreased in December from 2,329 in 2000 to 1,854 in 2001. Cumulative dissolutions for the 12 months ending with December also decreased.

Missouri **INFANT DEATHS** increased in December as 40 infants died compared with 34 in December 2000. The cumulative infant death rate for the 12 months ending with December increased from 7.2 to 8.0 per 1,000 live births. The 2001 rate is slightly inflated due to irregular reporting.

### PROVISIONAL RESIDENT VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Item	December				12 months ending with December									
	Number		Rate*		Number				Rate*					
	2000	2001	2000	2001	1998	1999	2000	2001	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
<b>Live births</b> .....	6,320	6,177	13.6	12.5	75,242	75,366	76,329	75,529	13.6	13.7	13.6	13.6	13.4	
<b>Deaths</b> .....	4,068	3,670	8.8	7.4	54,849	55,732	54,602	54,327	9.9	10.0	10.0	9.8	9.6	
<b>Natural increase</b> .	2,252	2,507	4.8	5.1	20,393	19,634	21,727	21,202	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.9	3.8	
<b>Marriages</b> .....	2,052	2,283	4.4	4.6	43,865	44,369	43,665	44,016	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.8	
<b>Dissolutions</b> .....	2,329	1,854	5.0	3.8	25,305	24,583	24,980	24,893	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.4	
<b>Infant deaths</b> .....	34	40	5.4	6.5	573	588	547	604	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.2	8.0	
<b>Population base</b> .. (in thousands)	...	...	5,595	5,630	...	...	...	...	5,452	5,499	5,547	5,595	5,630	

\*Rates for live births, deaths, natural increase, marriages and dissolutions are computed on the number per 1000 estimated population. The infant death rate is based on the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births. Rates are adjusted to account for varying lengths of monthly reporting periods.

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